United Nations S/2010/121

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 March 2010
English
Original: French

Letter dated 25 February 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from the Government of Guinea, I have the honour to transmit herewith the final communiqué of the eleventh meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea, held in Conakry, Guinea, on 22 February 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council in connection with the item entitled "Peace consolidation in West Africa".

(*Signed*) Alpha Ibrahima **Sow**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 25 February 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Eleventh meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea

Conakry, 22 February 2010

Final communiqué

1. The eleventh meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea[1] was held in Conakry, Guinea, on Monday, 22 February 2010.

2. The Group heard presentations by the Transitional Prime Minister, the Chairperson of the National Transition Council, the spokesperson of Forces vives, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Political Affairs as well as the President of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). It also received the representatives of Alliance Nationale pour le Renouveau, and the Bloc of Patriotic Forces. The Group was received by Brigadier General Sékouba Konaté, President of the Transition.

3. Following the presentations and exhaustive discussion with the various interlocutors, the Group assessed the evolution of the political and security situation in the Republic of Guinea since its tenth meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 26 January 2010. It welcomed the formation of the board of the National Transition Council, and the designation of the President and Vice-Presidents of the National Transition Council, as well as the finalization of the electoral budget, and the proposal of an electoral calendar by INEC.

4. The Group congratulated all the stakeholders in the Guinea transition for their commitment to the process and encouraged them not to relent in their efforts to ensure a successful transition culminating in the holding of free, transparent and credible presidential and legislative elections. It also commended President Blaise Campaoré, the ECOWAS Facilitator, for his fruitful work to ensure a successful transition. The Group also expressed happiness that all the parties to the transition agreed to comply with all the provisions of the Ouagadougou Joint Declaration of 15 January 2010, as the guiding instrument for the transition. On the other hand, the Group encouraged the stakeholders to consolidate by all appropriate means including a comprehensive and inclusive political accord without impeding the momentum of the transition. It also urged them to proceed with the designation of the members of the National Transition Council and provide it with a consistent budget as early as possible.

5. The Group noted the work accomplished by INEC towards the holding of elections, particularly the completion of the registration of voters. It urged all

[1] In addition to the African Union and ECOWAS, the following organizations and countries attended the meeting: United Nations, European Union, Mano River Union, Community of Sahelo-Saharan States, Organization of the Islamic Conference, International Organization of la Francophonie, World Bank; permanent members of the Security Council (United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Russian Federation, China) and the African non-permanent member, Nigeria (also as Chair of the ECOWAS Authority); Burkina Faso, the Mediator in the Guinea crisis; and Germany, Spain, Japan, Canada and Morocco as invitees.

Guinean stakeholders to use this data as the basis for finalizing the voters register for the presidential elections proposed for 27 June 2010. The Group encouraged the stakeholders to adopt a timetable consistent with the one agreed in the Ouagadougou Joint Declaration. In the same vein, the Group urged the competent authorities to work as a matter of priority to carry out limited reforms of the constitution and electoral code before the next presidential elections.

6. The Group recalled that, in accordance with Point 8 of the Ouagadougou Joint Declaration, the members of the National Transition Council, the Interim Head of State, members of CNDD, the Transitional Prime Minister and members of the Government of National Unity, as well as members of the security and armed forces in active service, cannot be candidates in the next presidential elections.

7. Regarding the financing of the electoral process, the Group expressed its gratitude to all the partners who have already made contributions to the electoral budget and exhorted all those who have not yet done so, as well as those yet to make commitments, to do so without further delay. The Group invited the technical and financial partners to continue their efforts with a view to helping Guinea succeed in the transitional process and organizing a credible and transparent election. In this respect, the Group welcomed Nigeria's announcement of $1,000,000 to the electoral process. It invited the Guinean authorities to pay without delay their contribution to the funding of the electoral process.

8. The Group commended the commencement of the programme of assistance for the reform of the defence and security sector by the joint ECOWAS-African Union-United Nations mission led by General Lamine Cissé. It was informed by ECOWAS that the European Union and other partners have been invited to join the joint technical working group. The Group welcomed the positive disposition and the commitment of the Interim President of the Republic, General Sékouba Konaté, the Transitional Prime Minister and all other stakeholders to the successful implementation of the programme. The Group took note of the commitment by several partners to contribute to these reforms and recommended close coordination between the partners and ECOWAS.

9. The Group urged ECOWAS, the African Union, the United Nations, the European Union and other partners, in consultation with the ECOWAS Facilitator and the Guinean authorities, to agree on the modalities for civil-military assistance as a contribution to securing the electoral process. To this end, the Group invited the authorities to introduce as soon as possible a request for the deployment of international election observer missions.

10. The Group reiterated its commitment to mobilize adequate international support for economic recovery and comprehensive institutional reforms aimed at consolidating democracy, national reconciliation and socio-economic development. In particular, it identified the demilitarization of the Territorial Administration and the reform of the justice sector as priority tasks.

11. The Group welcomed the current effort both nationally and internationally aimed at curbing impunity and encouraged members of the international community to support Guinea's efforts in this direction.

12. The Group made a fervent appeal to all the political forces involved in the transitional process to put the supreme interest of the country above all other considerations and refrain from any acts liable to sow divisions in the society and

endanger the transition. It reiterated the appeal made at its last meeting for all Guineans to remain united and maintain social cohesion during the sensitive period.

13. In the light of the tangible progress made towards the restoration of constitutional order, the Group invited the organizations that imposed individual sanctions on a number of Guineans, including those relating to the 28 September 2009 events, to reconsider their stand and reactivate their cooperation with Guinea, taking all relevant factors into account.

14. During the audience with the Head of the Transition, Brigadier General Sékouba Konaté, the Group appreciated the latter's renewed commitment to resolutely conduct the transition within the time frame agreed under the Ouagadougou Joint Declaration. In this respect, the Group noted the process of putting in place the transitional institutions, the President's desire to reinstate the normal operation of political parties in all parts of the country, ensure their access to the public media and fix as early as possible the date for the presidential elections, and initiate the reform of the defence and security sector with the support of the international community.

15. The Group paid tribute to its Co-Chair and President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mohamed Ibn Chambas. It wished him success in his new responsibility as Secretary-General of the ACP Group. The Group conferred on Dr. Chambas the distinction of Honorary Member of the Group and invited him to its next meeting.

16. The Group decided to hold its next meeting in Conakry in the first half of April 2010 after consultation by the Co-Chairs.